

In the Claims:

Please cancel Claims 1-28, and Claims 29-49; and add new claims 50-70, all as shown below. Applicant respectfully reserves the right to prosecute any originally presented claims in a continuing or future application.

1-28. (Canceled).

29-49. (Canceled).

50. (New) A system for utilizing a workflow language, comprising:

a computer including a processing device operating thereon;

a source file stored on a computer readable medium, wherein the source file includes a workflow definition created using a workflow language, wherein said workflow language comprises a Java programming language extended with a plurality of workflow constructs, including constructs for defining parallel processing of a workflow and separate workflow branches therein, and wherein the workflow definition further includes a construct to terminate the parallel processing of the workflow when certain conditions are met; and

means for creating a workflow program according to said workflow definition, including

means for the computer to read the source file and process the plurality of workflow constructs to activate a workflow, including creating separate workflow processes corresponding to the separate workflow branches,

means for activating each of the separate workflow processes to subsequently generate activities at the computer as defined by each workflow branch, and

means for determining when the certain conditions specified in the source file have occurred and then terminating the parallel processing of the workflow.

51. (New) The system of claim 50, wherein the workflow definition is invoked by a Java application.

52. (New) The system of claim 50, wherein the plurality of workflow definition constructs are provided as XML commands.

53. (New) The system of claim 50, further comprising a light-weight virtual machine at the computer that processes the workflow and that is enabled to, at a particular point in the workflow process, save the workflow's execution space including program stack and variable state, and, at a later point in time, revive the workflow at the same point in the workflow process using the saved program stack and variable state.

54. (New) The system of claim 50, wherein the source file is a Java Web Service file that includes the workflow definition constructs.

55. (New) The system of claim 54, wherein the Java Web Service file also references Java methods and variables for a software application running on the system and using the workflow.

56. (New) The system of claim 54, wherein workflow definitions are provided as a separate Java Work Flow file that includes workflow definition commands, and that are invoked by the Java Web Service file using the workflow definition constructs, to use the workflow as defined by the Java Work Flow file.

57. (New) A method for utilizing a workflow language, comprising:

selecting a source file including a workflow definition created using a workflow language, wherein said workflow language comprises a Java programming language extended with a plurality of workflow constructs, including constructs for defining parallel processing of a workflow and separate workflow branches therein, and wherein the workflow definition further includes a construct to terminate the parallel processing of the workflow when certain conditions are met; and

using a workflow program according to said workflow definition, including

processing, using a computer including a processing device operating thereon, the plurality of workflow constructs to activate a workflow, including creating separate workflow processes corresponding to the separate workflow branches,

activating each of the separate workflow processes to subsequently generate activities at the computer as defined by each workflow branch, and
determining when the certain conditions specified in the source file have occurred and then terminating the parallel processing of the workflow.

58. (New) The method of claim 57, wherein the workflow definition is invoked by a Java application.

59. (New) The method of claim 57, wherein the plurality of workflow definition constructs are provided as XML commands.

60. (New) The method of claim 57, further comprising using a light-weight virtual machine at the computer that processes the workflow and that is enabled to, at a particular point in the workflow process, save the workflow's execution space including program stack and variable state, and, at a later point in time, revive the workflow at the same point in the workflow process using the saved program stack and variable state.

61. (New) The method of claim 57, wherein the source file is a Java Web Service file that includes the workflow definition constructs.

62. (New) The method of claim 61, wherein the Java Web Service file also references Java methods and variables for a software application running on the system and using the workflow.

63. (New) The method of claim 61, wherein workflow definitions are provided as a separate Java Work Flow file that includes workflow definition commands, and that are invoked by the Java Web Service file using the workflow definition constructs, to use the workflow as defined by the Java Work Flow file.

64. (New) A computer readable medium, including instructions stored thereon, which when executed by a computer cause the computer to perform the steps comprising:

selecting a source file including a workflow definition created using a workflow language, wherein said workflow language comprises a Java programming language extended with a plurality of workflow constructs, including constructs for defining parallel processing of a workflow and separate workflow branches therein, and wherein the workflow definition further includes a construct to terminate the parallel processing of the workflow when certain conditions are met; and using a workflow program according to said workflow definition, including processing the plurality of workflow constructs to activate a workflow, including creating separate workflow processes corresponding to the separate workflow branches, activating each of the separate workflow processes to subsequently generate activities at the computer as defined by each workflow branch, and determining when the certain conditions specified in the source file have occurred and then terminating the parallel processing of the workflow.

65. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 64, wherein the workflow definition is invoked by a Java application.

66. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 64, wherein the plurality of workflow definition constructs are provided as XML commands.

67. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 64, further comprising instructions for using a light-weight virtual machine at the computer that processes the workflow and that is enabled to, at a particular point in the workflow process, save the workflow's execution space including program stack and variable state, and, at a later point in time, revive the workflow at the same point in the workflow process using the saved program stack and variable state.

68. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 64, wherein the source file is a Java Web Service file that includes the workflow definition constructs.

69. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 68, wherein the Java Web Service file also references Java methods and variables for a software application running on the system and using the workflow.

70. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 68, wherein workflow definitions are provided as a separate Java Work Flow file that includes workflow definition commands, and that are invoked by the Java Web Service file using the workflow definition constructs, to use the workflow as defined by the Java Work Flow file.